

DRAFT

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 North Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

Fur Farm, Game Bird Farm, Zoo/Menagerie, Shooting Preserve

PART 1. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

Project Title: Covington Game Bird Farm

Application Date: April 16, 2002

Name, Address, and Phone Number: Steve Covington
25 Magstadt Lane
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 756-8829

Project Location: 25 Magstadt Lane, Kalispell, MT
S5 T28N R21W, Flathead County

Description of Project: Applicant would like to raise quail, chukar, and pheasants for use in taxidermy work. The birds will be raised in the applicant's back yard in a pen and hut that are already built. The pen is about 6' X 12' and 7' tall, with more than adequate enclosure for the birds to roost and get out of the weather.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction: None

PART 2. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below or on Attached Pages
a. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources.				X		
b. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats.				X		
c. Introduction of new species into an area.			X			1c.
d. Vegetation cover, quantity, & quality.				X		
e. Water quality, quantity, & distribution (surface or groundwater).				X		
f. Existing water right or reservation.				X		
g. Geology & soil quality, stability, & moisture.				X		
h. Air quality or objectional odors.			X			1h.
i. Historical & archaeological sites.				X		
j. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air, & energy.				X		
k. Aesthetics.				X		1k.

Comments

(A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

- 1c. The species of birds on the application are already present in the habitat surrounding the proposed site. Their introduction into the area would have no impact.
- 1k. The pen cannot be seen by any of the neighbors due to shrubs, buildings, and distance.
- 1h. Objectionable odors may be produced by the small aviary. These odors should be dissipated through the air before they reach any neighboring homes.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below Or On Attached Pages
a. Social structures and cultural diversity.				X		
b. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat.				X		
c. Local and state tax base and tax revenue.				X		
d. Agricultural production.				X		
e. Human health.				X		
f. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income.				X		
g. Access to & quality of recreational activities.				X		
h. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances).				X		
i. Distribution & density of population and housing.				X		
j. Demands for government services.				X		
k. Industrial and/or commercial activity.				X		

Comments

(A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided as comments.)

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? No

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? No

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no-action alternative) to the proposed action, when alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider. Include a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

1. Alternative 1 - Issue the permit with stipulations.
2. No Action - Do nothing on the proposed action.
3. Alternative 2 - Deny the permit to the applicant.

List proposed mitigative measures (stipulations) for license:

1. Maintain the aviary pens in order to insure ingress and egress do not occur.
2. If ingress and egress do occur, then the applicant must notify FWP as soon as possible.
3. Live birds sold by the applicant can only go to licensed or permitted individuals, game bird farms, and shooting preserves.

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Date EA completed: May 13, 2002

Duration of comment period:

Draft EA posted on website from May 15, 2002 to May 30, 2002.

EA prepared by: Game Warden Brian Sommers
Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 751-4562

PART 3. DECISION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS: At this time, there is no need for an EIS with this proposed project due to the fact that there are no major mitigation factors.

Describe public involvement, if any: None

Recommendation for license approval: Issue the license under Alternative 1.

Wildlife Manager	Date
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Warden Captain	Date
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